

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

### **A. Background**

BLM Office: El Centro Field Office  
1661 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street El Centro, CA 92243

DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2016-0014  
CACA-56415

**Project Title:** Ford Performance Vehicle Testing

**Location:** West Mesa Routes of Travel and Superstition Mountain Open off-highway vehicle (OHV) surveyed areas.

### **Description and Rationale, including any Stipulations:**

Ford Motor Company has applied for a land use permit (LUP) within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Western Imperial County (WECO) Routes of Travel and one Superstition Mountain open OHV surveyed route (see attached maps).

The applicant proposes to utilize the land in support of the tuning and development of the 2017 Ford Raptor off-road vehicle. Trained Development Engineers will evaluate the subject vehicle over the identified routes with various chassis and powertrain hardware, completing up to 10 passes per day with up to two vehicles. The route will be controlled by safety spotters at each end of a given route and supplemental spotters along the route all in radio contact with the test vehicle at all times. Speeds for any evaluation are defined by what a Raptor customer would be expected to attain during normal, non-destructive use of the vehicle. Timed and speed measured evaluations are not included in any testing.

Medical response personnel will be on hand at all times to provide immediate medical care and implement the provided medical response plan if required. All support vehicles are equipped with safety response equipment including fire suppression (dry chemical and foam), tow straps and tools.

The test vehicles will be equipped with roll bars, 5-point safety harnesses, and fire suppression systems. Drivers wear full face helmets and head and neck restraints during all testing.

### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

This action conforms to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980, as amended because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with the Resource Management Plan (RMP) objectives and decisions.

### **C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act**

The action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9:

E(19): Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorization for uses such as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply (see attached).

I considered this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan(s) and that no further environmental analysis is required.

**D. Signature**

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//Signed//  
Thomas F. Zale  
Field Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
11/05/2015  
Date

**E. Contact**

For more information, contact Victoria Hernandez, BLM Business Support Associate, at 760.337.4436 or via email at [vhernandez@blm.gov](mailto:vhernandez@blm.gov).